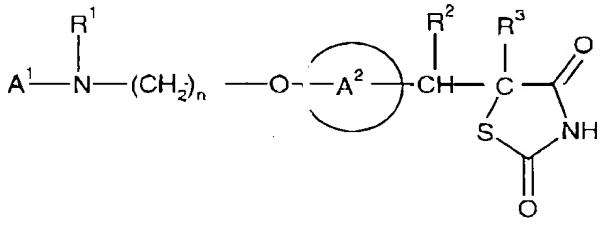
US Application No. 10/071,824 (Attorney Docket No. B2368C1D1C1)
Claims pending as of Preliminary Amendment dated Feb 7, 2002

13. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I):



(I)

or a tautomeric form thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, wherein:

A^1 represents a substituted or unsubstituted single ring aromatic heterocyclyl group having 4 to 7 ring atoms and comprising up to 4 hetero atoms in each ring selected from oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen, the substituents for the heterocyclyl group being up to 4 substituents selected from the group consisting of: C_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxy, aryl and halogen or any two substituents on adjacent carbon atoms, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, may form an aryl group, and wherein the carbon atoms of the aryl group represented by the said two substituents may themselves be substituted or unsubstituted;

R^1 represents a hydrocarbon atom, a C_{1-12}-alkyl group, a C_{1-6}-alkylcarbonyl group, an aryl-C_{1-12}-alkyl group, the aryl moiety being substituted or unsubstituted, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group;

R^2 and R^3 each represent hydrogen, or R^2 and R^3 together represent a bond;

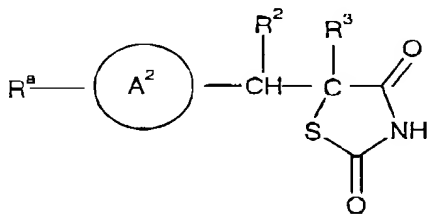
A^2 represents a benzene ring having three optional substituents which may be selected from halogen substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or alkoxy, substituents for the alkyl group being selected from the groups consisting of halogen, C_{1-12}-alkyl, phenyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxy, halo-C_{1-12}-alkyl, hydroxy, amino,

nitro, carboxy, C_{1-12}-alkoxycarbonyloxyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxycarbonyl- C_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{1-12}-alkylcarbonyloxy, and C_{1-12}-alkylcarbonyl; and

n represents an integer in the range of from 2 to 6;

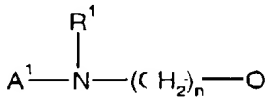
wherein the process comprises steps selected from the group consisting of:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (III):



(III)

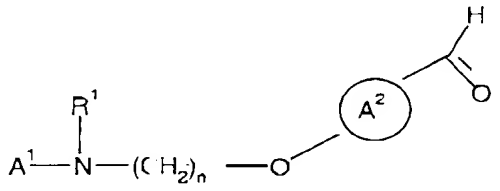
wherein R^2, R^3 and A^2 are as defined in relation to formula (I), and R^a is a moiety convertible to a moiety of formula (f):



(f)

wherein R^1, A^1, and n are as defined in relation to formula (I), with an appropriate reagent capable of converting Ra to the said moiety (f); and

(b) by reacting a compound of formula (VIII)



(VIII)

wherein R^1, A^1, A^2, and n are as defined in relation to formula (I) with 2,4-

thiazolidinedione; and thereafter, if required, carrying out one or more of the following optional steps:

(i) converting a compound of formula (I) to a further compound of formula (I);

(ii) preparing a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of formula (I) and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof.

14. A process according to claim 13, wherein the product of the process is 5-(4-[2-(N-methyl-N (2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl)-2,4-thiazolidinedione or a tautomeric form thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvat thereof.